

Top Secret



MCO



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

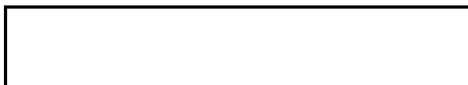
The Situation in Vietnam

ARMY and DOS review(s) completed.

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Information as of 1600
29 June 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

A US Navy LST was severely damaged by an underwater explosion while loading supplies along the shore in Quang Tri Province. Several sharp clashes between allied and Communist forces were reported in widely scattered areas of South Vietnam on 28 and 29 June.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Several sharp contacts were made with Communist forces in widely scattered areas of South Vietnam on 28 and 29 June (Paras. 1-5). Three North Vietnamese soldiers have provided additional information on the battle in Kontum Province on 22 and 23 June (Paras. 6-9). A US Navy LST was severely damaged by an underwater explosion early on 29 June (Paras. 10-11).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:
"Big" Minh's efforts to re-enter South Vietnam to run for the presidency have not been successful thus far (Paras. 1-4). Ky filed his official papers as a presidential candidate on 29 June (Para. 5).

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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:

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Two recently captured North Vietnamese soldiers have indicated that a large number of the men who infiltrated with them were lost en route through desertion, sickness, and injuries (Para. 4).

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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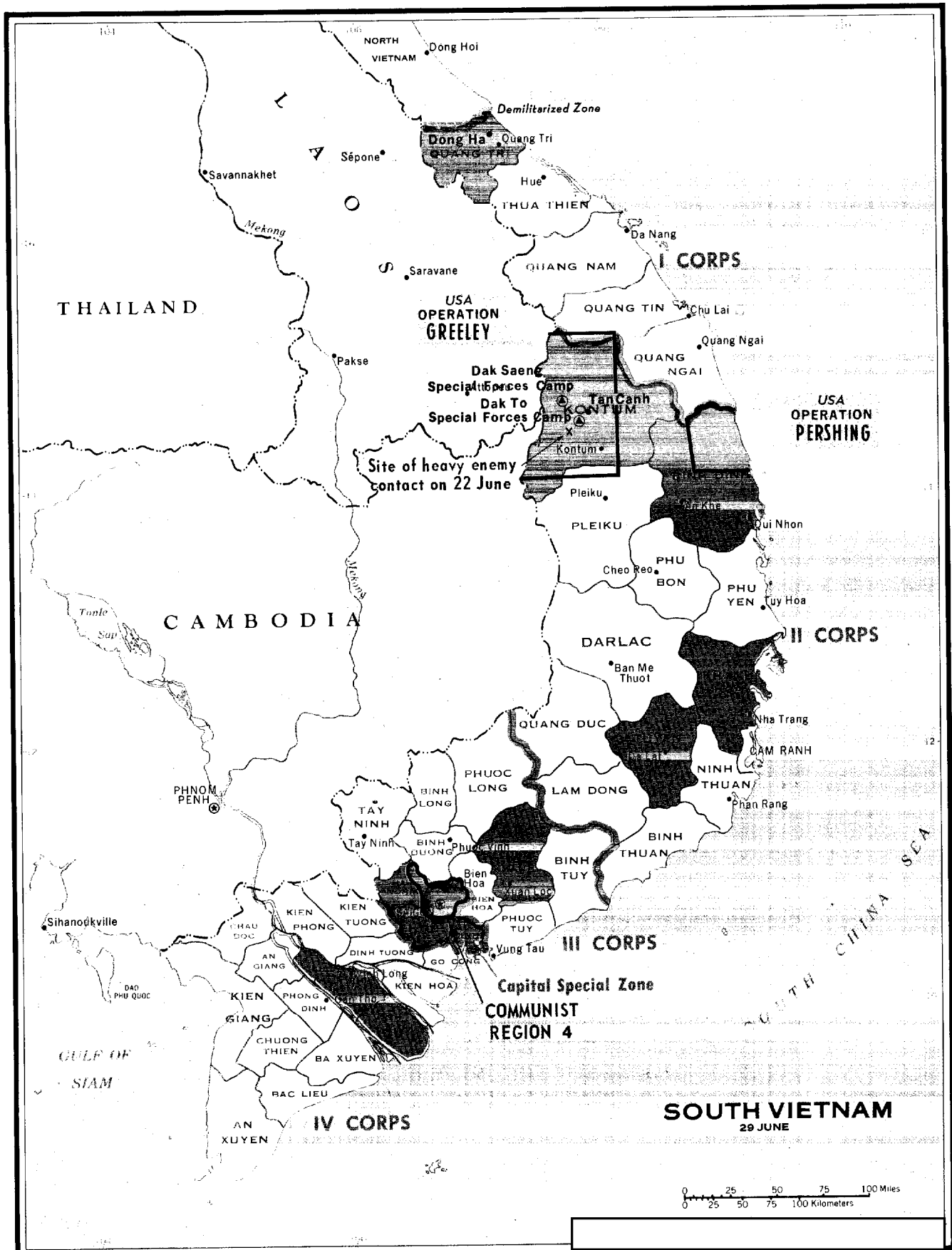
ANNEX:

South Vietnam Battle Statistics
1963 to week of 18-24 June 1967

- Weapons and Personnel Losses
- Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents

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I. MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Several sharp contacts were made with Communist forces in widely scattered areas of South Vietnam on 28 and 29 June.

2. The largest battle is still under way some 35 miles northeast of Saigon in Long Khanh Province. Preliminary casualty reports from this engagement indicate that the South Vietnamese 52nd Ranger Battalion has lost seven killed, 77 wounded, and 139 missing. Elements of the US 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, reinforcing the rangers, report 11 wounded. Enemy forces, probably a unit of the Viet Cong (VC) 5th Light Infantry Division, have reportedly lost 55 killed.

3. Since at least 23 June, intelligence elements of the VC 274th Regiment, 5th Light Infantry Division, have been engaged in intensive reconnaissance of US and ARVN units in southwestern Long Khanh Province. Recently captured prisoners state that the Viet Cong 5th Division has received many replacements this spring from North Vietnam. US and ARVN forces have been conducting sweep operations in the Bien Hoa - Long Khanh - Phuoc Tuy triborder area in an effort to spoil expected attacks from this enemy force.

4. In other actions on 27-28 June, troopers of the US 1st Cavalry Division in Operation PERSHING report killing 35 of the enemy in coastal Binh Dinh Province, and a company of the US 25th Infantry Division reports 25 enemy dead in a contact west of Saigon.

5. Additional enemy contact also has been reported southwest of Dak To Special Forces camp in Kontum Province, the scene of heavy fighting on 22-23 June. A company of the US 1st Cavalry Division in Operation GREELEY reported a sharp clash on 28 June in which seven US soldiers were killed and five were wounded. Enemy losses were not reported.

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Captives Provide Information on Recent Engagement

6. Three North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers, captured on 26 June several miles southwest of Dak To in Kontum Province, have provided additional information on the 22 and 23 June battle in this area in which paratroop elements of the US 173rd Airborne Brigade suffered heavy casualties. Some of their information, however, appears to be inaccurate or incomplete.

7. All three captives identified their parent unit as the 6th Battalion [redacted] De-
tailed interrogation of one of the captives revealed that the 6th Battalion was en route to attack allied facilities in the Dak To - Tan Canh area when it engaged company-strength elements of the US 173rd Brigade conducting Operation GREELEY. According to this prisoner, only the 6th Battalion--consisting of three infantry companies with a total strength of 160 men and a supporting mortar company--was involved in the 22-23 June contact. This is far below the normal strength of an NVA battalion. MACV credited the 6th Battalion with a strength of 400 men prior to the battle.

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8. The prisoner claims that two companies of the 6th Battalion sustained casualties of 26 killed and "many" wounded, including all of their officers. He had no information on losses to the battalion's remaining subordinates. MACV has officially listed 106 Communist troops killed in that engagement.

9. The prisoners also stated that the NVA 24th Regiment--which traditionally operates in Kontum Province--had recently received rice from Cambodia and truckloads of ammunition from North Vietnam, including "82-pound" rockets. The first enemy use in II Corps of 122- and 140-mm. rockets--which use ammunition weighing somewhat more than the 82 pounds reported by the prisoner--occurred last week at the Dak To and Dak Saeng Special Forces camps in Kontum Province.

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US Navy LST Hit By Underwater Explosion

10. A US Navy LST, loading supplies on the beach seven miles northeast of Dong Ha in north-eastern Quang Tri Province, was hit by an underwater explosion early on 29 June. The blast tore a hole in the hull, flooding the engine compartments and rendering the boat inoperable. The vessel will require extensive repairs but only one American was wounded.

11. Communist units have previously harassed US Marine and naval units in this area of Quang Tri Province. In mid-June, 225 rounds of mortar and rocket fire were directed at the American positions.

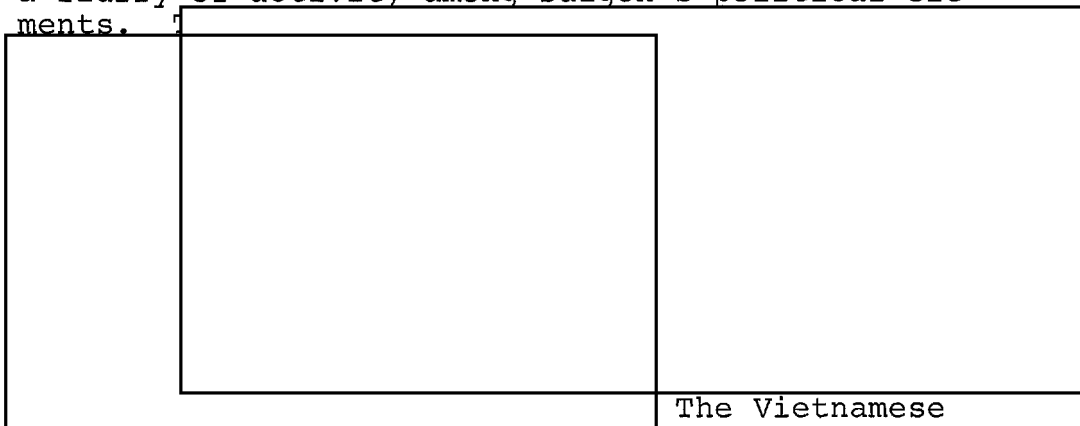
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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. "Big" Minh's attempt to enter South Vietnam from Bangkok in order to file his presidential application papers before midnight on 30 June has created a flurry of activity among Saigon's political elements.



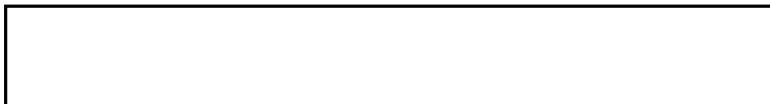
The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has not granted Minh a visa, which is the technical explanation for not allowing him to return. Saigon's airport, where Minh would be expected to arrive if he should return, has been reinforced with security guards, according to press reports.

3. The major civilian candidates, Tran Van Huong and Phan Khac Suu, as well as the Provisional National Assembly and reportedly the militant Buddhists who support Thich Tri Quang, have all seized upon the Minh controversy to attack the military Directorate. One of Huong's supporters, former Youth Minister Vo Long Trieu, told a US Embassy officer on 28 June that Minh has agreed to support Huong if he is not allowed to return. Trieu reiterated the feeling of other civilians that it is Minh's right under the new constitution to return as a presidential candidate.

4. Phan Khac Suu speaking as chairman of the Provisional National Assembly, told a US Embassy officer on 29 June that Minh sent him both a telegram and an airmail letter asking him to intervene with the Directorate on his behalf. He received the letter but claimed that the telegram was

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intercepted by "security agents." Suu also believes that Minh should be allowed to run for the presidency. According to the administrator of the assembly, Minh also asked that his messages be accepted as a preliminary presidential application. The assembly official believed that a special committee might accept Minh's request but that he would still have to have his application dossier complete with the proper signatures and in the assembly's hands by the deadline.

Ky Files Candidacy

5. On 29 June, Ky became the 11th candidate to file his official papers with the assembly.

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

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NVA Losses During Infiltration

4. Two recently captured North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers have provided information on large losses--particularly through desertion--suffered by their units during infiltration to the South. According to one of the soldiers, a member of the [redacted] his company of approximately 170 men lost 34 men during infiltration. Fifteen deserted, 11 were killed, three were wounded, and five were lost through illness. The second soldier reported losses of 42 men from his 52-man group subordinate to the [redacted]. Of these, 26 deserted, 13 were killed, two were wounded, and one was lost to illness. Although further details on these losses are not available, these are among the first indications that desertions during infiltration occur in such large numbers.

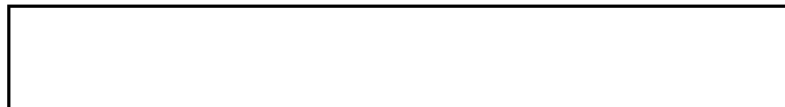
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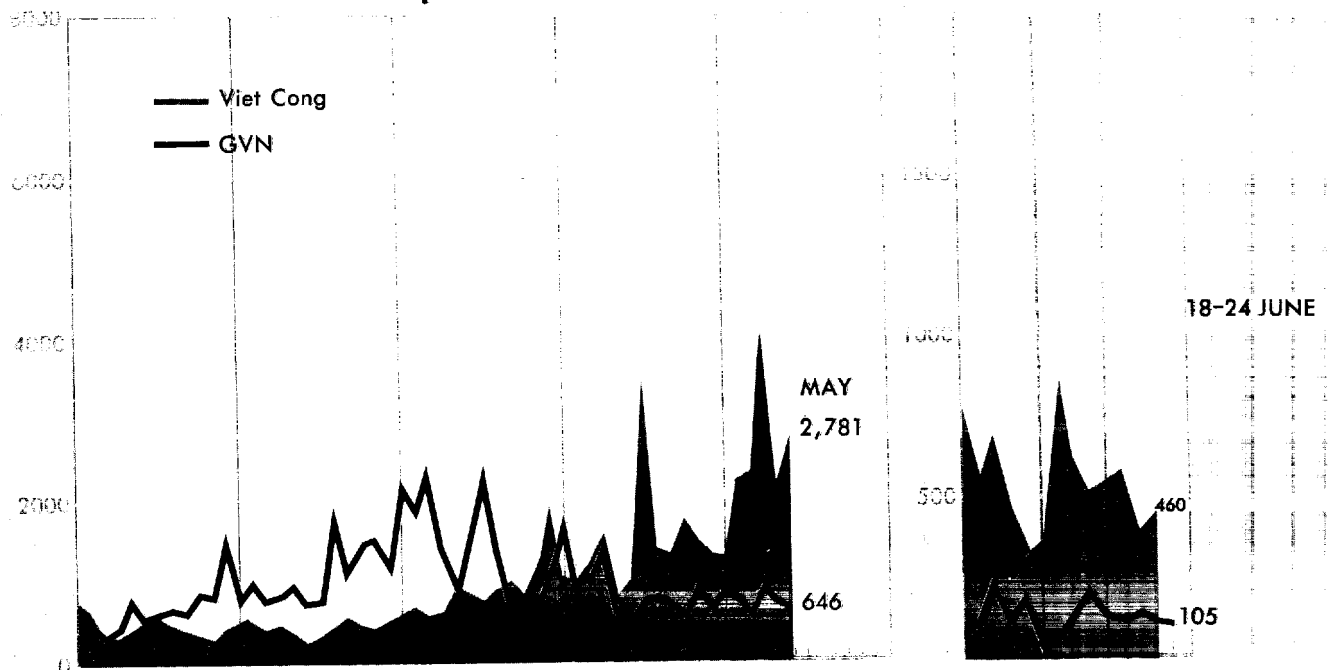
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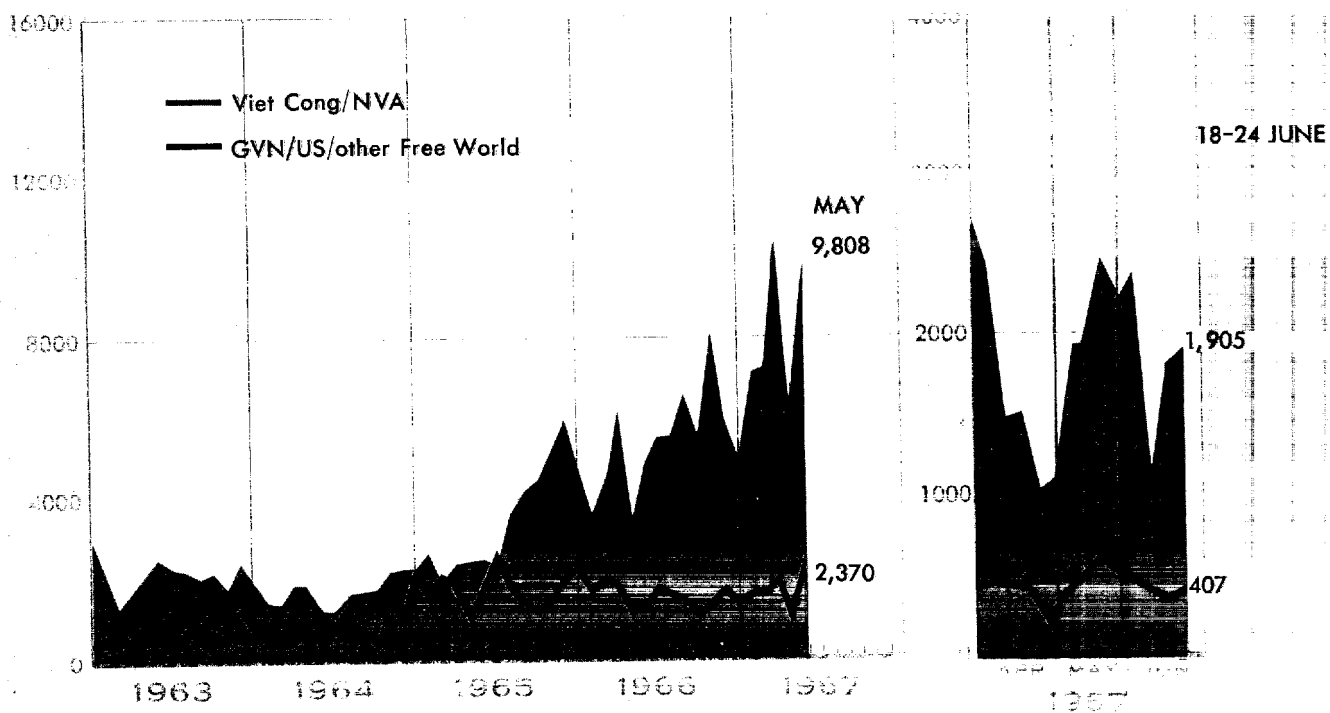


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Weapons Losses



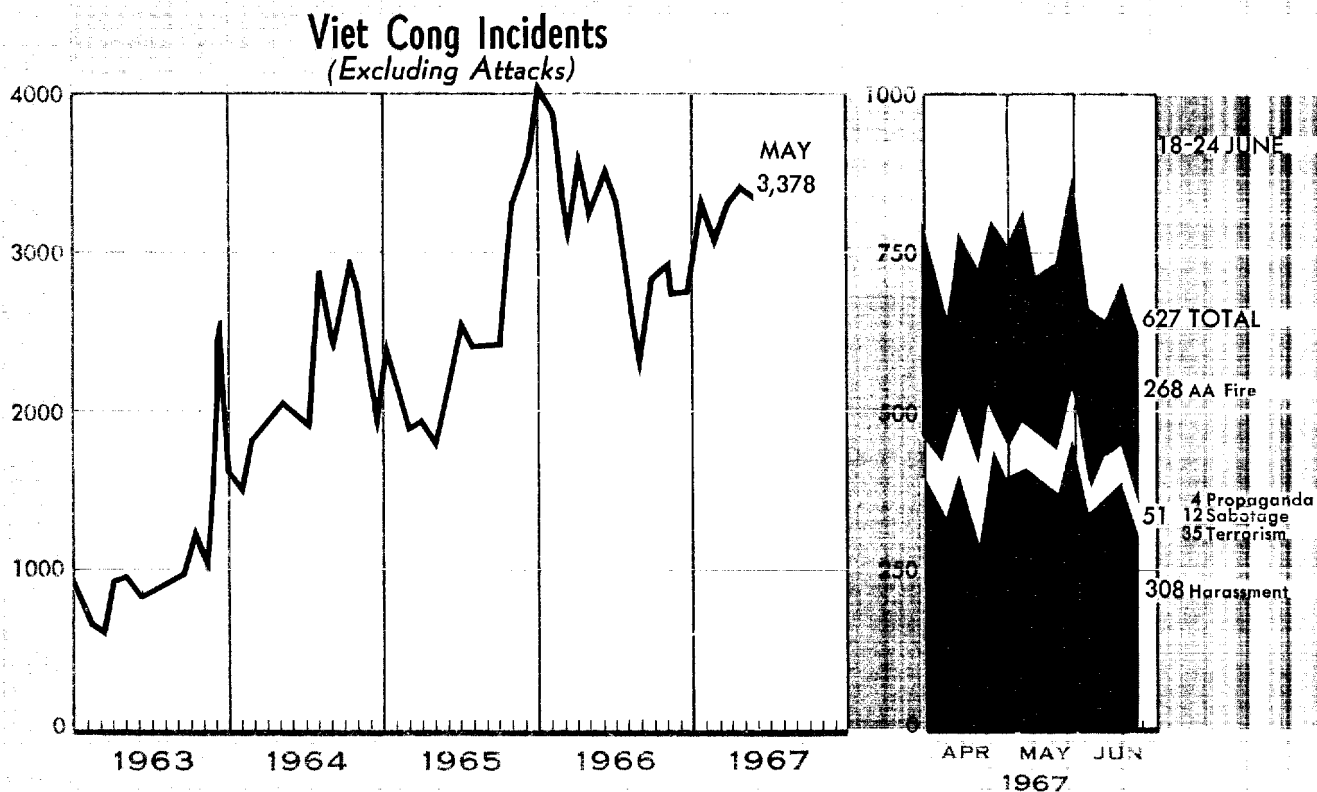
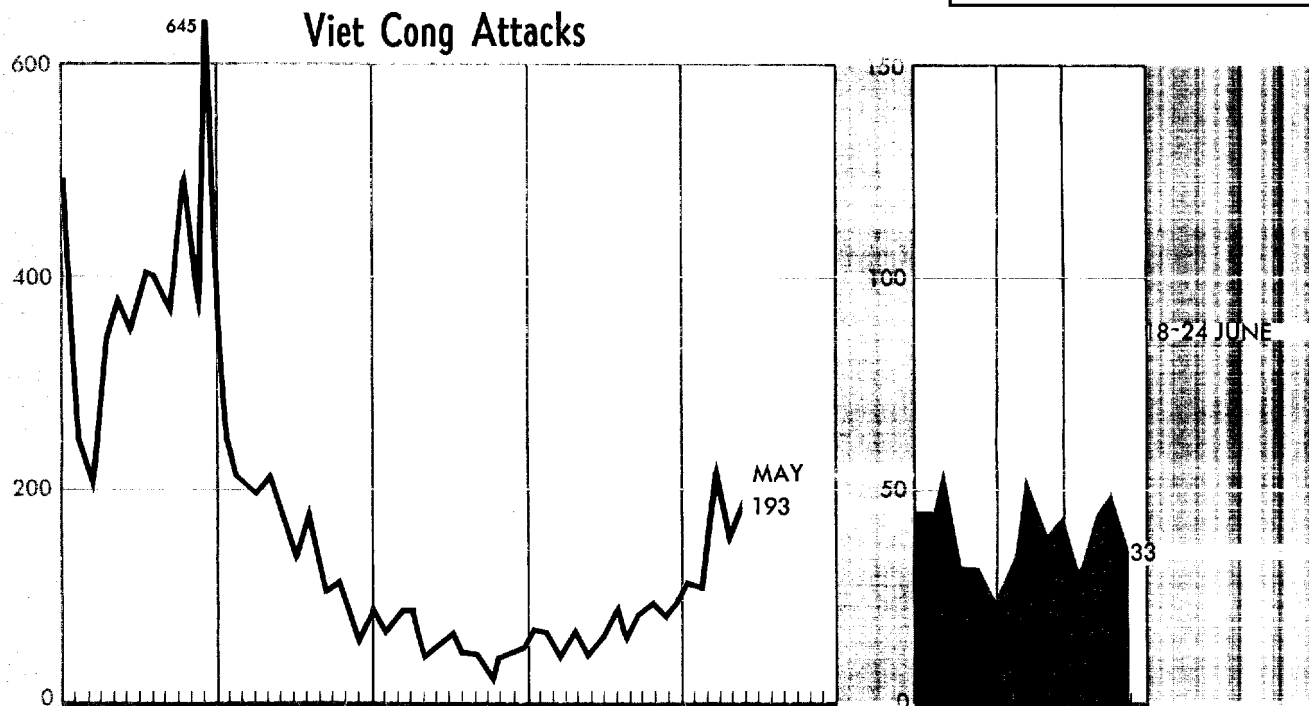
Personnel Losses (Killed only)*



US Casualties to Date: Killed 11,372 Wounded 68,341 Captured 184 Missing 476

*Due to a change in the reporting of personnel losses, beginning 12 February 1967, the weekly and monthly figure will represent only personnel killed.

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